

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend Paragraph [0001] as set forth below:

[0001] This application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of U.S. provisional application ~~60/483,999~~ 60/438,999 filed on January 10, 2003, the entire content of which is incorporated by reference.

Please amend Paragraph [0021] as set forth below:

[0021] In one embodiment, ~~he~~ the cover sheets are elastic, at least at the waist band and in the side panels of the front and rear portions 4, 5 lying laterally outside the absorbent body 1. In the embodiment shown, the elasticity of the cover sheets has been obtained by elastic threads 7, 8, which in a stretched state having been arranged between the cover sheets and secured to these by welding or gluing. The elasticity can also be obtained in other ways, for example by one or both of the cover sheets being made of elastic material. If both cover sheets are made of elastic material, one of the sheets does not need to be arranged in the stretched state, which maybe necessary if only one of the sheets is elastic. It is also possible for the side panels of the front and rear portions 4, 5 lying laterally outside the absorbent body 1 to consist of separate panels made of elastic material, while the waist band is made elastic by arranging stretched elastic threads or bands between the cover sheets 2, 3.

Please amend Paragraph [0035] as set forth below:

[0035] The side-edge portions 5A, 5B of the rear portion 5 of the diaper pants blank are then folded in across the inner liquid-permeable cover sheet 2 with the aid of the gripping and support members 13 so that the outer cover sheet 3 is facing the observer of Figure 2 in these edge portions, and so that a support part 14 15 of the gripping and support member comes to lie between the folded-in part of the side-edge portion and the underlying part of the rear portion 5. This folding operation is described in more detail with reference to Figures 3-5. At the same time, the gripping and support members 14 are displaced symmetrically, in relation to the longitudinal axis of symmetry of the diaper pants blank, towards each other in the transverse direction of the diaper pants blank by a distance which corresponds to twice the width of the folded-in part of the side-edge portion of the rear portion.

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

~~The present invention relates to an~~ An absorbent article and method to produce the article using a blank, ~~comprising~~ includes the following steps: folding the side-edge portions of the side parts of either the rear portion or front portion in towards the inner cover sheet over supports placed on the side parts of this portion and extending along the full length of this portion; folding the blank about a transverse line in the crotch portion so that the end edges of the front portion and rear portion come to lie edge-to-edge and so that the side-edge portions of the folded-in portion overlap the folded-in side edge portions of the second portion; and welding together the overlapping side-edge portions of the side parts within the area of the supports by ~~means~~ way of ultrasonic or thermal welding.